



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER, NAVY REGION MIDWEST  
2601A PAUL JONES ST  
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS 60088-2845

5863  
Ser 00/1675  
December 21, 2007

The Honorable Peter J. Roskam  
United States House of Representatives  
150 South Bloomingdale Road  
Bloomingdale, IL 60108  
(Attention: Ms. (b) (6))

Dear Congressman Roskam:

Thank you for your letter of November 7, 2007, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. (b) (6) concerning the transfer of fire protection services at Fort Sheridan and the duties of Naval Station Great Lakes firefighters with respect to emergency medical services (EMS).

The relationship of the Navy to the housing at Fort Sheridan is that of a partner in a Public Private Venture housing initiative. Midwest Family Housing, LLC, as managing partner, handles the daily operations and decisions, and the Navy, as a non-managing partner, is briefed and updated on the operations as necessary. The LLC has hired a subdivision of Forest City Enterprises, Inc., to manage the properties and operations.

The LLC is responsible for obtaining necessary services for the housing, including fire protection. Based upon agreement reached by LLC management with Highland Park officials, fire services are now provided by the city of Highland Park instead of the Navy. Municipal fire departments are not required to staff fire units in compliance with Department of Defense safety standards. Further, neither the Department of Defense nor the Navy may dictate to the City of Highland Park how it provides fire protection services or determines hiring practices.

The Navy fire fighters assigned to Naval Station Great Lakes perform firefighting and EMS duties, which are consistent with the Department of Navy policy guidance and are conditions of employment.

I am extremely proud of our Navy fire fighters and the world-class fire prevention and protection that they provide. Should you need additional information, I will be pleased to respond.

Sincerely,

J. W. BAYLESS, JR.  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Commander

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Office of Legislature Affairs (L-6)  
Commander, Navy Installations Command (N3)  
Navy Region Midwest (N3)